

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 3, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Applicants amend claims 5, 6, and 15-23 and add new claims 24-28 to address other aspects of the present invention. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 5, 6, and 15-28 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,980 to Tada (hereinafter "Tada")¹. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Regarding Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 15-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Tada. In order to anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of the claim in issue must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference. Further, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim." See M.P.E.P. § 2131, quoting Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claim 15, as amended, recites a combination including, for example, "determining one of the representative images being selected; and reproducing the audio information corresponding to the selected representative image." Tada fails to teach "determining one of the representative images being selected; and reproducing

¹ In Office Action Summary, the Examiner listed claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 16-23 are pending. Applicants note that the pending claims should be claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 15-23, as the Examiner described in the Detailed Action section.

the audio information corresponding to the selected representative image,” as required by amended claim 15.

Tada discloses a karaoke apparatus for displaying still pictures instead of motion pictures during the performance of the music pieces. Tada, abstract. “The display still picture data is switched to another one in accordance with the progress of the music piece” based on “a BGP (BackGround Picture) script data which is a picture sequence data.” Tada, column 4, lines 1-11. Tada also teaches “. . . the index file which designates a music piece data and a picture sequence data in correspondence with a karaoke music piece.” Tada, column 2, lines 45-47. The karaoke apparatus also includes “remote controller 31 comprises command switches such as a music-piece selection key and numerical key switches.” “When the user operates the switches, an infrared signal which is modulated by a code in accordance with the operation is transmitted. The display panel 14 is disposed on the front face of the karaoke apparatus, and used for displaying the code of a music piece which is currently performed, and the number of reserved music pieces.” Tada, column 4, lines 57-64. However, Tada fails to teach at least “determining one of the representative images being selected; and reproducing the audio information corresponding to the selected representative image,” as required by amended claim 15.

Thus, Tada fails to disclose each and every element in claim 15 either expressly or inherently. Tada therefore cannot anticipate claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15.

Because amended claims 16-23 depend from claim 15, Applicants also request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-23 for at least the same reasons stated above.

Further, because claims 1 and 3 have been canceled, the rejection of claims 1 and 3 is moot.

Independent claims 5 and 6, while of different scope, recite similar language to that of claim 15. Claims 5 and 6 are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons stated above regarding the rejection of claim 15. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 6.

Regarding Newly Added Claims

Applicants have added new claims 24-28 to address other aspects of the present invention. Support for claims 24-28 may be found at, for example, Figs. 1, 2, 7, and 17, pages 59-61 and 83-84. For at least the same reasons stated above, claims 24-28 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request examination and timely allowance of claims 24-28.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 29, 2005

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